

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20423

This legislation deals with the issuance of building permits for improvements, extensions, or alterations of existing buildings, residences or other structures. The purpose is to grandfather unaffected parts of existing structures from having to meet more stringent building code requirements than were in existence at the time of the original construction. It is anticipated that this change will stimulate more remodel and expansion construction activity in instances where code upgrades in the existing building make such remodel or expansion projects financially prohibitive. The bill contains an exception for specific substantial safety hazards identified by the permitting authority which are created by reason of the new improvement, so long as the additional requirement is limited to correcting the specific safety hazard. While existing structures are generally grandfathered in from compliance with subsequent building code revisions, that exemption can be lost when the structure is modified or changed. Because of constantly evolving building codes which include both technical and procedural changes by unelected commissions, this provision would provide a reliable standard for owners of existing buildings seeking to improve, remodel or expand the building.

FISCAL NOTE

None.

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